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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

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ORIGINAL STUDIES AND REPORTS.

Periodicity Among the Insane. "Periodicity" refers here to the more or less regular cyclical change in symptoms,—a change to and fro between two differing states. In health the most marked example is menstruation. Slight cyclical changes have been noted as daily, lunar, etc., with changes of rest and work, sleeping and waking, etc. It is doubtful, however, if these changes in temperature, excitability, etc., are not causatively connected with occupation, temperature, eating, etc.

Entering the field of diseases, we find migraine and epilepsy as the most common of these inexplicable periodicities. Among

ble at times, after a whole lifetime of these storms of mental unbalance, seemingly enough in themselves to ruin the mind.

Although for conciseness and form it would be well to state all periodicities to go with adolescent insanity, yet the truth is that it departs considerably from this type at times. As to some approximately statistical backing for the above, I can only briefly state as follows: In 1892, among a population of 460 women, 346 were not past the age of menstruation, and thirty-seven of these were of a behavior decidedly more irritable, irritated or excited, maniacal or actively demented at or about the time of menstruation. Fifty-six other female patients had periodical variations, thirty-two of which were fairly regular and "predictable," the others rather vague. Among the men examples are as clear cut and typical, but not so numerous,—not even quite so numerous as among the female population, after those accompanying the menstrual flow are subtracted.

Periodicity, then, is an element in insanity that hints vaguely at causes and asks for more study, but which as yet, tells not of the why of its coming and going.

R. M. PHELPS.

ABSTRACTS.

Salaries and Perquisites of Superintendents and Officers. This is the title of a paper read before the State Conference of Charities and Correction in Minnesota, by T. H. Titus, a trustee of the State Hospital. We make the following quotations:

"The tendency of the times is to take better care of all our defective classes, and as it becomes more generally understood that the State is giving this care and attention, a large number who have heretofore been kept by their friends and relatives are sent to our public institutions, until the expense of maintenance amounts to a large sum and it becomes necessary to look carefully after these expenses to see that economy is exercised in every department.

"It has been the custom in most of the older states, and this custom has been adopted in our own State, to pay the superintendents, wardens, and other officers a certain fixed salary, and in addition to provide buildings for them to live in, furnish the rooms, provide for their tables, give light, fuel, washing, etc. These perquisites in some States have become costly, and in many States abuse of privileges has crept in, until the expense of administration amounts to quite a large per cent. of the total cost. The natural tendency of human nature is such that it is very easy to get into an extravagant and costly manner of living when the expense is borne by some one else, and especially if borne by the State.